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FM RIYADH

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 191

OF 030710Z NOVEMBER 85

INFO ROUTINE ALL MIDDLE EAST POSTS, JEDDAH

M

YOUR TELNO 177: JORDANIAN/PALESTINIAN DELEGATION

1. I FLEW TO MEDINA ON 2 NOVEMBER AND DELIVERED THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO KING FAHD.
2. IN THE COURSE OF AN HOUR'S DISCUSSION (RECORD FOLLOWS BY BAG), AND BEFORE READING THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE, THE KING REFERRED TO THE EVIDENT MISUNDERSTANDING OVER THE DELEGATION'S VISIT TO LONDON. HE SAID THAT ARAFAT (WHO HAS SEEN THE KING WITHIN THE LAST FEW DAYS) HAD FIRMLY DENIED THAT ANY AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON A TEXT (SEE MY TELNO 190). THE KING ADDED THAT HE HAD HIMSELF SEEN KING HUSSEIN'S STATEMENT ABSOLVING US OF ANY BLAME IN THIS AFFAIR.
3. THE KING SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED THE PRIME MINISTER'S EFFORTS TO MAKE A FORWARD MOVE IN THE PEACE PROCESS, AND HOPED THAT WE WOULD NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF A FURTHER ATTEMPT TO MEET REPRESENTATIVE PALESTINIANS, EVEN IF WE NOW FELT THE NEED FOR A PERIOD OF REFLECTION. I RESPONDED BY SUMMARISING THE RELEVANT PASSAGE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE, AND ASSURED HIM THAT WE WISHED TO KEEP CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH OUR FRIENDS, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY THE AMERICANS, THE JORDANIANS AND THE SAUDIS, IN CONSIDERING THE WAY FORWARD.

WRIGHT

MIDDLE EAST

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